

**Unemployment Insurance
Program Highlights**

Total unemployment insurance program benefit payments in 1998 were \$19.9 billion, a decrease of \$400 million from the expenditures for 1997—\$20.3 billion.

Regular state program payments in 1998 were \$19.4 billion, and regular payments to federal employees and ex-servicemembers, about \$400 million.

The average weekly benefit amount under the regular state programs was \$200 in 1998 and the average duration of benefits was 13.8 weeks.

Average weekly insured unemployment in 1998 was 2.3 million persons [unchanged from 1997].

Covered employment rose to 122.4 million in 1998, as shown below:

1990	106,330,000
1991	104,644,000
1992	105,185,000
1993	107,304,000
1994	110,538,000
1995	113,498,000
1996	116,125,000
1997	119,159,000
1998	122,417,000

**Temporary
Disability Insurance
Program Highlights**

Temporary Disability Insurance (TDI) programs are in effect in 7 jurisdictions—5 states (California, Hawaii, New Jersey, New York, and Rhode Island), Puerto Rico, and the railroad industry.

Average weekly benefits in 1996 varied by jurisdiction and plan type. The average weekly payment was \$308 in Hawaii. In Puerto Rico it was \$80 for state fund plans and \$110 for private plans. California, which accounts for half of the workers participating in TDI, paid an average weekly benefit of \$226 to those covered by the state fund, and \$356 for those under private plans. New York paid an average weekly benefit of \$142 under the state fund, and \$178 under private plans.

Black Lung Benefits Program Highlights

Black Lung benefit levels are tied to federal employee salaries. The basic benefit for a miner or widow in 1999 is \$469.50, and the maximum family benefit is \$939.00.

Effective October 1, 1997, primary responsibility for maintenance and payment of *Part B* (claims filed before July 1, 1973) benefit provisions of Title IV of the Federal Coal Mine Health and Safety Act of 1969 was transferred from the Social Security Administration to the Department of Labor (DOL). Significant program data under Part B in 1998 included the following:

- Between December 1997 and 1998, total Black Lung beneficiaries dropped from 119,200 to 109,300. The beneficiaries included 16,000 miners, 73,400 widows, and 19,900 dependents.
- Total annual payments declined from \$614.9 million in 1997 to \$576.4 million in 1998.
- Average monthly benefits for miners in December 1998 were \$611.10, and \$463.00 for widows.
- Ninety-six percent of miners and widows were older than age 64 in 1998.
- Seventy-two percent of all Black Lung beneficiaries resided in five states in 1998: Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Kentucky, Virginia, and Ohio.

Under the Black Lung Benefits Act of 1972, DOL was assigned jurisdiction over *Part C* benefits—generally claims filed July 1, 1973 and later. In September 1998, monthly benefits were being paid by DOL to 58,300 beneficiaries—miners and survivors. This figure does not include benefits to dependents of miners and widows. Disability and survivor benefits in fiscal year 1998 under Part C of the program were \$377.0 million. Medical benefits accounted for an additional \$82.1 million.

Veterans' Benefits Program Highlights

In December 1998, the rates of compensation paid to veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation (DIC) paid to survivors (spouses, children, and certain parents) were increased by about 1.3 percent. A similar cost-of-living adjustment in non-service-connected disability and survivor pensions became effective at the same time.

In September 1998, disability compensation or pension payments were being made to 2,668,000 veterans. Of these, 2,277,000 represented benefits for service-connected disabilities and 391,000 for non-service-connected pensions.

The number of disabled veterans increased by 1,000 from the prior year. In addition, benefits were payable to survivors of 595,000 deceased veterans (based on service- and non-service-connected deaths) in September 1998.

Benefit payments to disabled veterans and survivors including service-connected compensation and non-service-connected pensions totaled about \$20.2 billion in fiscal year 1998.

**Temporary Assistance for
Needy Families (TANF)/ Aid
to Families with Dependent
Children (AFDC) and
Emergency Assistance
Program Highlights**

Under provisions of P.L. 104-193 (the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996, enacted August 22, 1996), the AFDC and Emergency Assistance programs were replaced with the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program. TANF became effective as soon as each state submitted a plan implementing TANF, but no later than July 1, 1997.

- The average monthly family caseload for calendar year 1997 was 3,747,000, down 15.6 percent from the preceding year. The TANF/AFDC recipient count averaged 10,375,300 in 1997.
- Payments to TANF/AFDC recipients totaled \$22.0 billion, a 70 percent increase of about 1.5 billion from the 1996 figure.
- The average monthly payment per family was up \$103.91 (26.9 percent) to \$490.01 for 1997 from the 1996 level of \$386.10
- Emergency assistance payments totaled \$403 million to an average of 81,792 families monthly during 1997.

**Food Stamps
Program Highlights**

As of October 1998, an eligible four-person household with no income receives \$419 monthly in food stamps (up from \$408 for the prior 12-month period). For a one-person household, the monthly amount is \$125, and for a two-person household, the amount is \$230.

- The average number of persons participating in the Food Stamp program in fiscal year 1998 was 19,787,000, a decrease of 13.4 percent from 1997.
- Food Stamp expenditures of \$16.9 billion in 1998 represented a 13.7-percent decrease from 1997.

**Low-Income Home Energy
Assistance Program
Highlights**

- In fiscal year 1996, HHS issued \$1.08 billion in LIHEAP block grants to the 50 states and the District of Columbia, 123 Indian tribes and tribal organizations, and 6 insular areas (American Samoa, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands/Palau, and the Virgin Islands).
- HHS issued \$16.9 million in fiscal year 1996 incentive awards to 43 states and 26 tribes and tribal organizations that had leveraged \$640 million in private or non-federal public resources in fiscal year 1995 to provide energy benefits to low-income households.
- HHS issued over \$5 million in fiscal year 1996 Residential Energy Assistance Challenge Option (REACH) awards. This was the first year in which REACH was funded. REACH is designed to make competitive grants for implementation through local community-based agencies of innovative plans to help LIHEAP eligible households reduce their energy vulnerability.
- With the enactment of the Human Services Amendments of 1994, LIHEAP was reauthorized through fiscal year 1999. The Coats Human Services Reauthorization Act of 1998 has since reauthorized LIHEAP through fiscal year 2004.

**Adult Assistance
Program Highlights**

The adult assistance programs—Old-Age Assistance (OAA), Aid to the Blind (AB) and Aid to the Permanently and Totally Disabled (APTD)—were replaced by the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program in the 50 States and the District of Columbia in January 1974. The former programs continue in effect in Puerto Rico, Guam, and the Virgin Islands.

- OAA payments totaling \$8.1 million were made to 15,000 persons per month, for an average monthly payment of \$43.58 in 1996.
- AB was provided to 200 persons monthly, totaling \$99,000 in 1996, for a monthly average benefit of \$37.57.
- APTD benefits averaging \$40.36 monthly were paid to 25,000 persons per month for a 1996 total of \$12.2 million.

**General Assistance
Program Highlights**

General Assistance payments were provided monthly to 628,000 cases, or 744,000 recipients in 1996.